

Remarks

A proposed drawing correction is submitted herewith.

The following discussion is relevant to both rejections stated in sections 4 and 5 of the Office action.

Claim 1 is amended to more precisely define "in use."

The Examiner recognizes that neither Gillette nor Key has holes suitable for the making of a line of latitude or longitude on a chart. The same, however, is true for Knechtel. If a pencil point were put in, e.g., the hole 5e in the ruler 1, as shown in Fig. 1, movements of the ruler 1 relative to the ruler 2 would result not in the drawing of a straight line, but an arc of a circle; clearly of no use as either a line of latitude or longitude. Indeed, the purpose of Knechtel's hole is specifically to avoid the drawing of lines: "Furthermore the use of the groove and holes dispenses with the necessity of actually drawing a bearing line . . . it being only necessary . . . to prick the zero point Z" (page 1, line 99 through line 6 of page 2).

It is observed that the search by the Examiner has revealed a significant number of patents relating to parallel rules. None, however, including Knechtel, shows or suggests using the movement of one ruler relative to the other for generating a straight line perpendicular to the ruler straight edges. This concept is disclosed and claimed solely by applicant. Knechtel certainly does not

disclose or suggest this because, as explained in Knechtel, a pencil point is first inserted into the hole 5c after a ruler, e.g., ruler 2, has been shifted to a final position (see beginning at line 66 and particularly lines 77 – 87).

Accordingly, because Knechtel discloses the use of a hole for an entirely different purpose from what is specified in the claims, there is no basis for modifying the structures of Gillette or Key for a purpose disclosed solely by the applicant.

New claim 23 specifies that a pair of correspondingly positioned holes in the two component rules are disposed along a line in fixed orthogonal relationship to the ruler straight edges in all positions of the component rules relative to one another. This structural arrangement is evident from the application description at, for example, page 3, lines 16 – 19 and line 26 of page 3 through line 7 of page 4.

While Knechtel shows a hole 5e in each rule 1 and 2, the two holes are not fixedly aligned perpendicular to the ruler straight edges. Also, in the Knechtel process, the two holes are not used in cooperation with one another, hence there is no teaching that the holes in the two rules should be aligned in any particular fashion.

New claim 24 specifies a plurality of spaced apart holes thus allowing

making plural parallel straight lines upon repeated openings and closings of the parallel rule. Knechtel shows but one pair of holes 5e.

New claims 25 and 26 are directed to methods of making lines of latitude or longitude using the parallel rules defined in claims 1 and 2. It is respectfully requested that these new claims be examined because the search previously made for the article claims would automatically have found any prior art relevant to the now submitted method claims. Also, the method claims specify the identical structure previously searched while more explicitly specifying the use limitations present in the article claims.

The argument for patentability of method claims 25 and 26 is essentially the same as that for the patentability of the article claims; namely that Knechtel shows a use of his holes substantially different from the use of the holes in applicant's claims. Specifically, Knechtel neither shows nor suggests a method for making lines of latitude or longitude on a chart, nor does Knechtel show, as previously noted, any cooperation between the holes in the respective rules.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims, along with approval of the proposed drawing correction, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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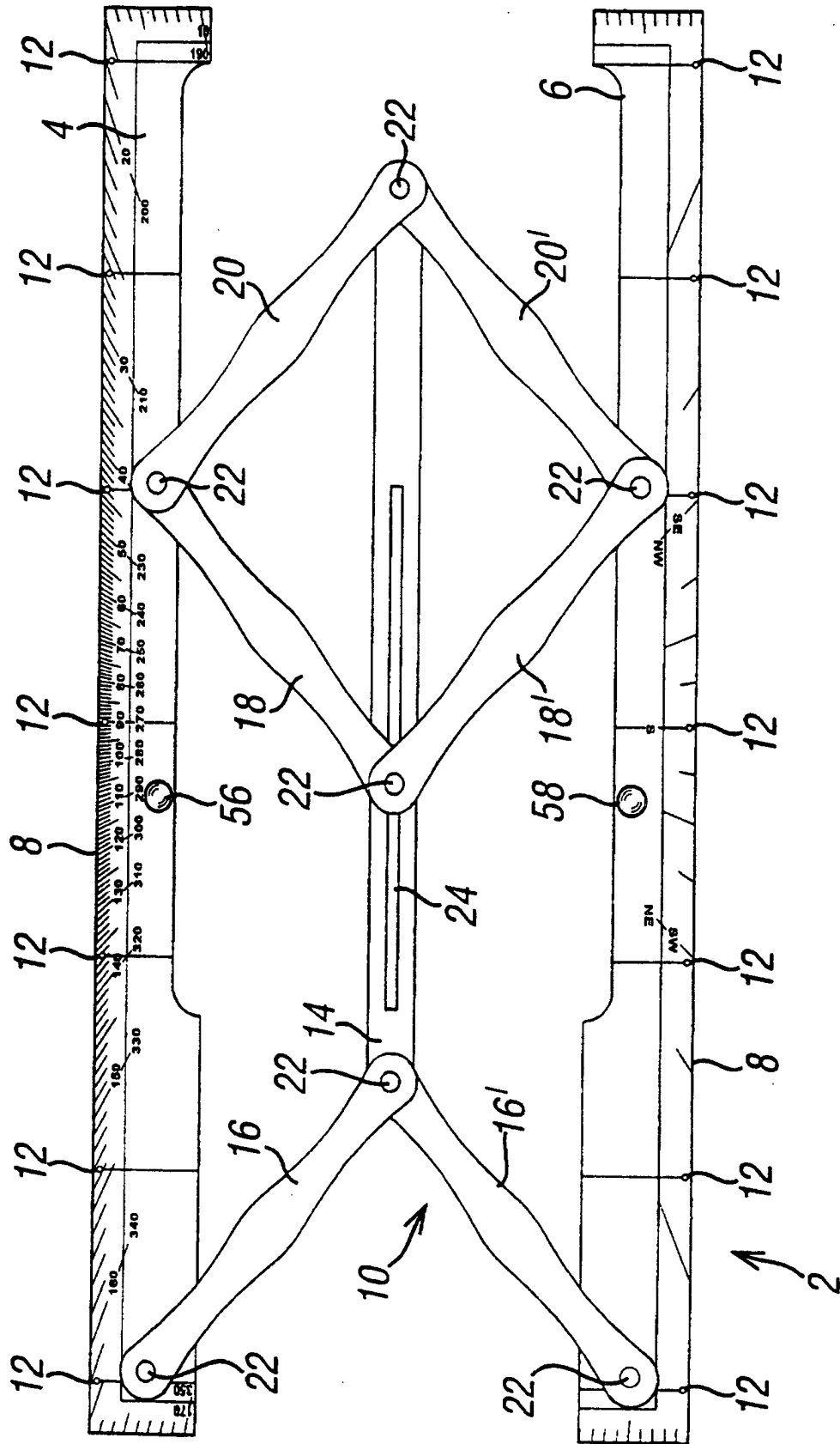
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FIG. 3A



S.N. 10/070,499
Humphries
"Parallel Rule"

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